

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

April 2015

Mars Science News

Second Landing Site Workshop for the Mars 2020 Rover

August 4-6, 2015

DoubleTree, Monrovia, CA

This workshop will focus on further evaluation of candidate sites introduced at the first workshop (May 2014) as well as new candidate sites. The candidate landing sites emerging from this workshop will then be considered in more detail by the 2020 Project, Mars Program, and the Science Community. New sites may be proposed and discussed at the workshop, with the expectation that such new sites will be based in part on discoveries related to new data from MRO. Future workshops (beyond 2015) would further narrow the list of sites under consideration to a recommended landing site zone and (eventually) precise landing ellipse. John Grant and Matt Golombek, Co-Chairs of the Mars Landing Site Steering Committee, encourage all members of the scientific community to participate in this activity, as robust input from the science community is critical to identifying the optimal landing site for the 2020 rover.

Note: *This workshop has been designated a conference, and thus must be forecasted by NASA employees and contractors. Information about forecasting will be distributed in the near-future via the Mars 2020 landing site website: <http://marsnext.jpl.nasa.gov> The workshop announcement and results from the first workshop are available on the website .*

2015 NASA Planetary Science Summer School Applications Open

August 10-14, 2015

Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA

NASA is accepting applications from science and engineering post-docs, recent PhDs, and doctoral students for its 27th Annual Planetary Science Summer School, which will be held in one single session in summer 2015 (August 10-14 only) at JPL in Pasadena, CA. During the program and pre-session webinars, student teams will carry out the equivalent of an early mission concept study, prepare a proposal authorization review presentation, present it to a review board, and receive feedback. By the end of the session, students will have a clearer understanding of the life cycle of a space mission; relationships between mission design, cost, and schedule; and the tradeoffs necessary to stay within cost and schedule while preserving science quality.

Applications are due April 10, 2015. Partial financial support is available for a limited number of individuals. Further information is available at <http://pscischool.jpl.nasa.gov>.

Updates to MEPAG Directory

If your contact information/institution has changed in the last ~5 years/since you signed up for the MEPAG email list (the list this newsletter is sent to), please fill out the online form: <http://goo.gl/forms/WilmhP1M9V> (Also linked on MEPAG website/Updates.)

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
April 1, 2015	iCubeSat 2015: 4th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop Abstract deadline
April 2, 2015	Goldschmidt 2015 Abstract deadline
April 3, 2015	12th International Planetary Probe Workshop Abstract deadline
April 4, 2015	11th IAA Low-Cost Planetary Mission Conference, LCPM-11 Early registration deadline
April 9, 2015	Comparative Tectonics and Geodynamics of Venus, Earth, and Rocky Exoplanets Early registration deadline
April 10, 2015	27th Annual Planetary Science Summer School Application deadline
April 13, 2015	2nd annual NASA Exploration Science Forum (ESF) Abstract deadline
April 22, 2015	4th International Planetary Dunes Workshop , Early registration deadline
April 24, 2015	2nd International Congress on Stratigraphy Abstract deadline
April 30, 2015	Comparative Climates of Terrestrial Planets II: Understanding how climate systems work Abstract and student travel grant application deadline
May 5, 2015	12th International Planetary Probe Workshop Early registration deadline Workshop on Issues in Crater Studies and the Dating of Planetary Surfaces Registration deadline
May 12, 2015	Japanese Geoscience Union (JpGU) Early registration deadline
May 14, 2015	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society Abstract deadline
May 29, 2015	2nd International Congress on Stratigraphy Early registration deadline
May 31, 2015	2nd Symposium of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2015): Water and Life in the Universe Abstract deadline
June 29, 2015	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society Early registration deadline

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Second Quarter, 2015		
	April 7-8 2015 Hampton, VA, USA	Venus Science Priorities Workshop for Laboratory Measurements and Instrument Definition http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/venustech2015/
	April 9, 2015 Hampton, VA, USA	12th Meeting of the Venus Exploration Analysis Group (VEXAG) http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/
	April 12-17, 2015 Vienna, AUSTRIA	European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2015 http://www.egu2015.eu/home.html
	April 28-29, 2015 Wachtberg, GERMANY	5th PCL Focus Days 2015 http://workshops.fhr.fraunhofer.de/pclfocusdays/
	May 4-6, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	Comparative Tectonics and Geodynamics of Venus, Earth, and Rocky Exoplanets http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/geodyn2015/
	May 5-6, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	Improving Space Operations Workshop https://info.aiaa.org/tac/SMG/SOSTC/Lists/Calendar/DispForm.aspx?ID=53&Source=https%3A%2F%2Finfo%2Eaiaa%2Eorg%2Ftac%2FSMG%2FSOSTC%2Fdefault%2Easpx
	May 5-7, 2015 Washington, DC, USA	Humans to Mars Summit http://h2m.exploremars.org/

Second Quarter, 2015—cont.

New!	May 12-13, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	AAS Astronauts and Robots: Partners in Space Science and Exploration http://www.astronautical.org/events/astronauts-robots
	May 19-22, 2015 Boise, ID, USA	4th International Planetary Dunes Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2015/
	May 19-22, 2015 Laurel, MD, USA	Workshop on Issues in Crater Studies and the Dating of Planetary Surfaces http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/craterstats2015/
	May 24-28, 2015 Chiba, JAPAN	Japanese Geoscience Union (JpGU) http://www.jpгу.org/meeting_e/
	May 26-27, 2015 London, UK	iCubeSat 2015: 4th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop http://iCubeSat.org
	June 1-4, 2015 Kazan, RUSSIA	Second IAPS Scientific Assembly: Observation and Understanding of the Moon, moons & Planets http://kpfu.ru/astrogeokazan-iaps-2015.html
	June 9-11, 2015 Berlin, GERMANY	11th IAA Low-Cost Planetary Mission Conference (LCPM-11) http://www.dlr.de/LCPM11
	June 15-19, 2015 Cologne, GERMANY	12th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-12) http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/
	June 15-19, 2015 Chicago, IL, USA	Astrobiology Science Conference 2015 (Abscon) http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/abscon2015/

Third Quarter, 2015

New!	July 19-23, 2015 Graz, AUSTRIA	2nd International Congress on Stratigraphy http://strati2015.uni-graz.at/ Session S 09: Planetary Stratigraphy
	July 21-23, 2015 Moffett Field, CA, USA	2nd annual NASA Exploration Science Forum (ESF) http://sservi.nasa.gov/NESF2015/
	July 27-31, 2015 Berkeley, CA, USA	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society http://metsoc2015.ssl.berkeley.edu/
	August 4-6, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	2nd Landing Site Workshop for the Mars 2020 Rover http://marsnext.jpl.nasa.gov/
New!	August 10-12, 2015 Pasadena, CA, USA	27th Annual Planetary Science Summer School http://pscischool.jpl.nasa.gov
New!	August 12-14, 2015 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	6th Planetary Crater Consortium www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu/
	August 16-21, 2015 Prague, CZ	Goldschmidt 2015 http://goldschmidt.info/2015/
New!	September 8-11, 2015 Moffett Field, CA, USA	Comparative Climates of Terrestrial Planets II: Understanding how climate systems work http://cctp2.arc.nasa.gov/
	September 16-17, 2015 Irvine, CA, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)

Third Quarter, 2015—con't

New!	September 21-26, 2015 Freiberg, GERMANY	The Bridging the Gap III: Impact Cratering in Nature, Experiments and Modeling http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/gap2015/
	September 27-October 2, 2015 Nantes, FRANCE	European Planetary Science Congress http://www.epsc2015.eu/home.html

Fourth Quarter, 2015

New!	October 20-23, 2015 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	2nd International Planetary Caves Conference http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/2ndcaves2015/
	November 1-4, 2015 Baltimore, MD, USA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting
	November 8-13, 2015 National Harbor, MD, USA	47th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS 2015) http://dps.aas.org/meetings/current
	November 9-13, 2015 Foz do Iguacu, BRAZIL	2nd Symposium of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2015): Water and Life in the Universe
	December 14-18, 2015 San Francisco, CA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting

2016

	January 7, 2016	20-Day ExoMars Launch Period Opens
	March 4, 2016	20-Day Insight Launch Window Opens
	March 29-31, 2016 Washington DC, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)
	April 4-8, 2016 Oxford, UK	International Venus Conference http://venus2016.uk/
	July 30-August 7, 2016 Istanbul, TURKEY	41st Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2016) and Associated Events http://www.cospar-assembly.org
	August 7-12, 2016 Berlin, GERMANY	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society
	September 14-15, 2016 Irvine, CA, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)
	September 28, 2016	Insight Arrival at Mars
	October 16-21, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA	Joint DPS-EPSC Meeting
	October 19, 2016	ExoMars 2016 (TGO and EDM) Arrival at Mars

Seasons on Mars

	MY33	MY34	MY35
Start of Northern Spring / L_s 0	6/18/2015	5/05/2017	3/23/2019
Start of Northern Summer / L_s 90	1/03/2016	11/20/2017	10/08/2019
Start of Northern Autumn / L_s 180	7/04/2016	5/22/2018	4/08/2020
Start of Northern Winter / L_s 270	11/28/2016	10/16/2018	9/02/2020

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

Good Friday	4/3/2015	3/25/2016	4/14/2017	3/30/2018
Rosh Hashanah	9/14/2015	9/16/2016	9/20/2017	9/10/2018
Yom Kippur	9/23/2015	9/25/2016	9/29/2017	9/19/2018

(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)

Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/12/2015	10/8/2016	10/9/2017	10/8/2018
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/26/2015	11/22/2016	11/23/2017	11/22/2018
Christmas Day	12/25/2015	12/25/2016	12/25/2017	12/25/2018

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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to:

Meredith Cosby at Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-354-0226.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at:

<http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>

If you wish to withdraw from the electronic mailing list this newsletter is sent out to, please send an email from your email account to mepag-removesignup@jpl.nasa.gov.

To be added to this list and receive this monthly newsletter and other Mars Science announcements, or to update your MEPAG directory information (which contains the email list used for sending out this newsletter), please fill out the online form:

<http://goo.gl/forms/WilmhPI1M9V> (also linked on MEPAG website, under Updates).